

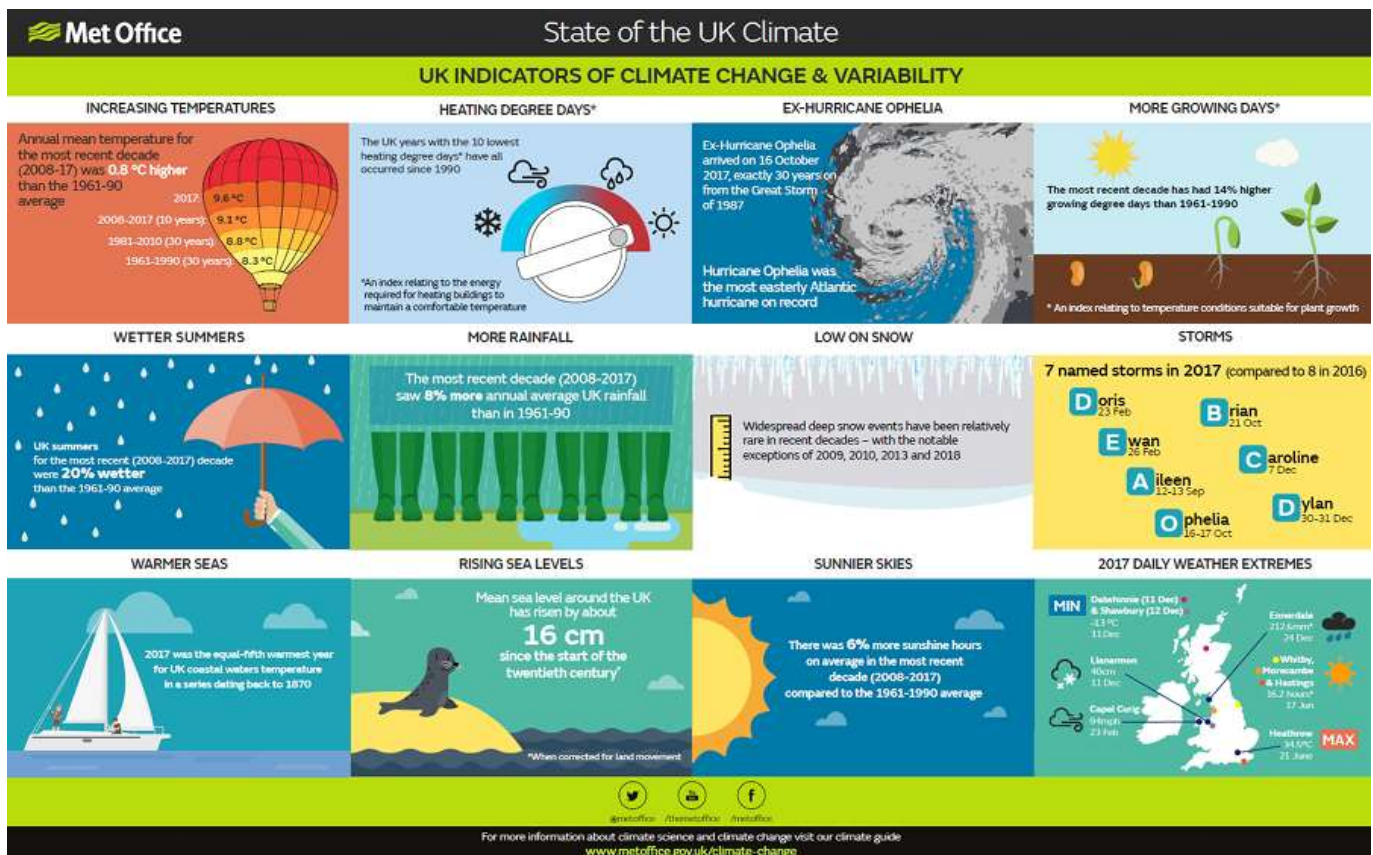
State of the UK Climate 2017

Author: Press Office

08:25 (UTC+1) on Tue 31 Jul 2018

The Met Office's 4th annual State of the UK Climate report, released today, confirms 2017 was the 5th warmest year in a record dating back to 1910.

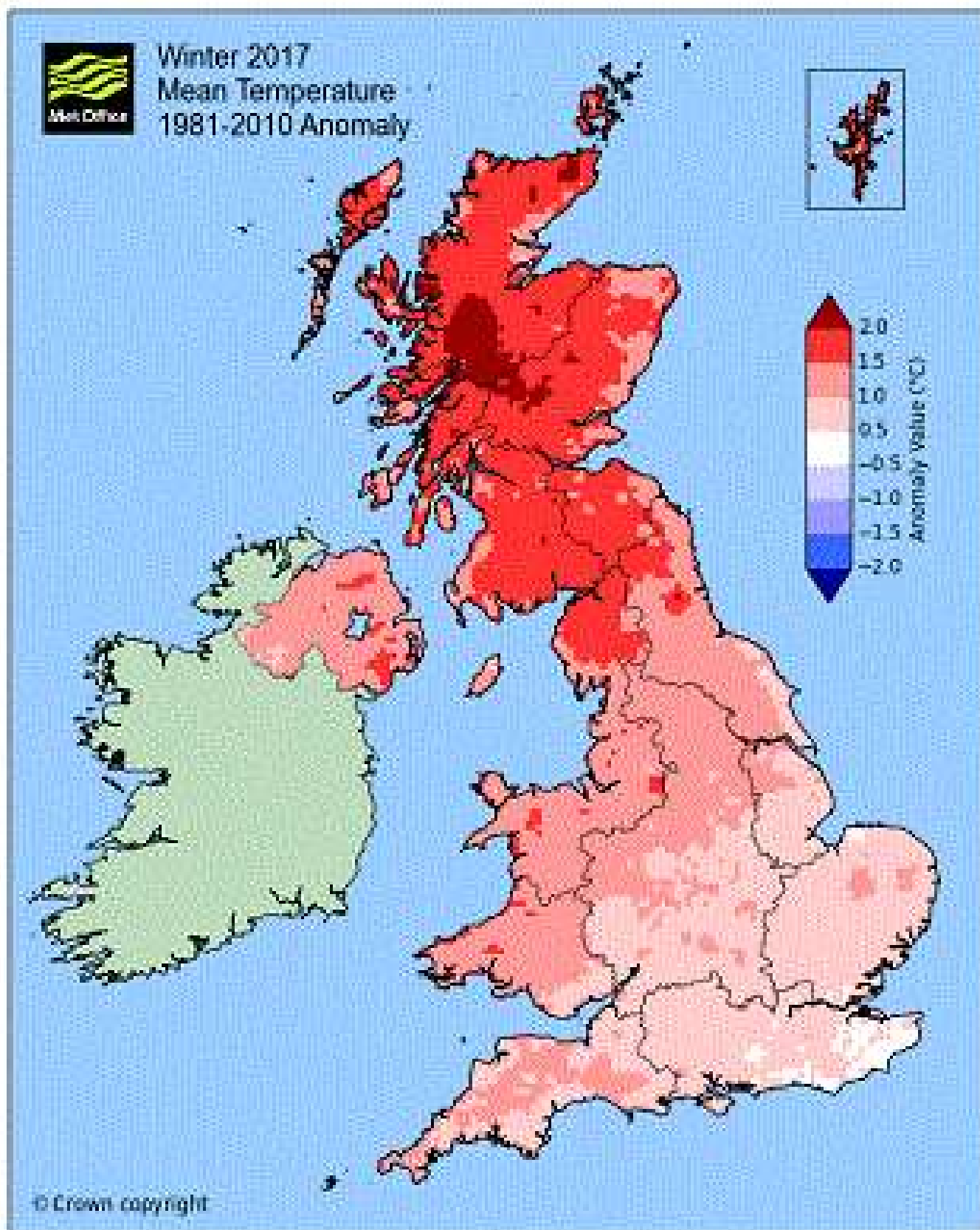
The UK climate is warming. Average temperature over the last decade (2008-2017) was 0.8 °C warmer than the 1961-1990 average, whilst we've also seen 8% more rainfall and 6% more sunshine. In contrast to summer 2018, UK summers have been notably wetter over the most recent decade, with a 20% increase in rainfall compared to 1961-1990.



Dr Mark McCarthy, Manager of the Met Office National Climate Information Centre, said: “Our climate is changing, globally and here in the UK. People may not recall 2017 as having been a particularly warm year, with a relatively wet summer and snow in December. Despite this, when looking at the longer-term perspective 2017 was still more than 1 °C warmer than our 1961-1990 baseline and ranks fifth warmest year overall for the UK.”

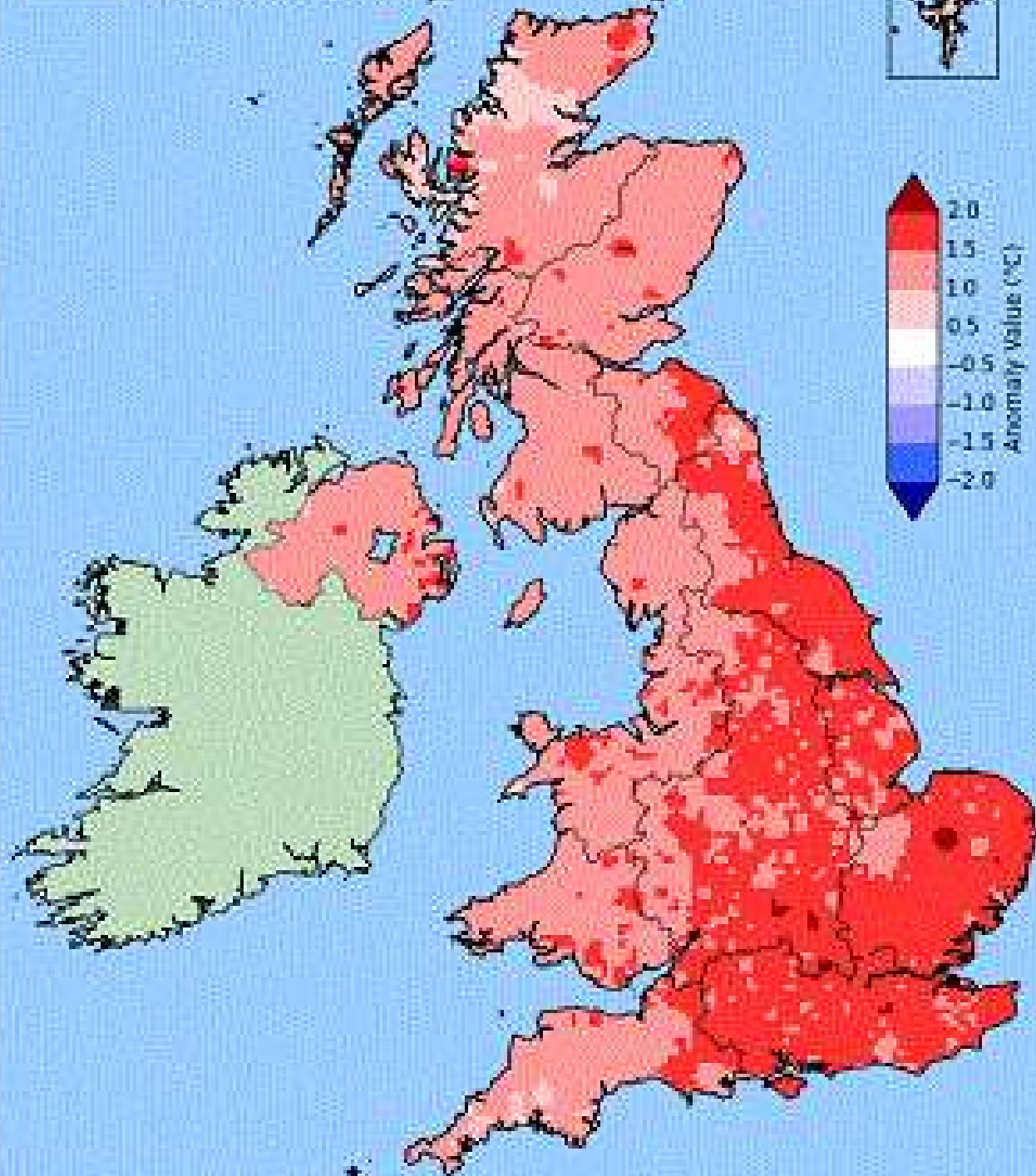
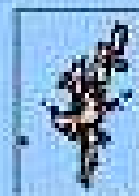
UK temperature records - dating back to 1910 - show that 2017 was the 5th warmest year on record for the UK land. Consequently, 2017 was the 5th lowest heating degree day (a metric associated with energy use (note)) and joint 5th highest growing degree day (a temperature metric associated with conditions suitable for plant growth (note)). UK coastal water temperatures were also warm: hitting joint 5th warmest in a series since 1870.

Warmer than average temperatures from February to June, and also in October, helped position 2017's high temperature ranking, whilst the second half of the year saw temperatures nearer to average.



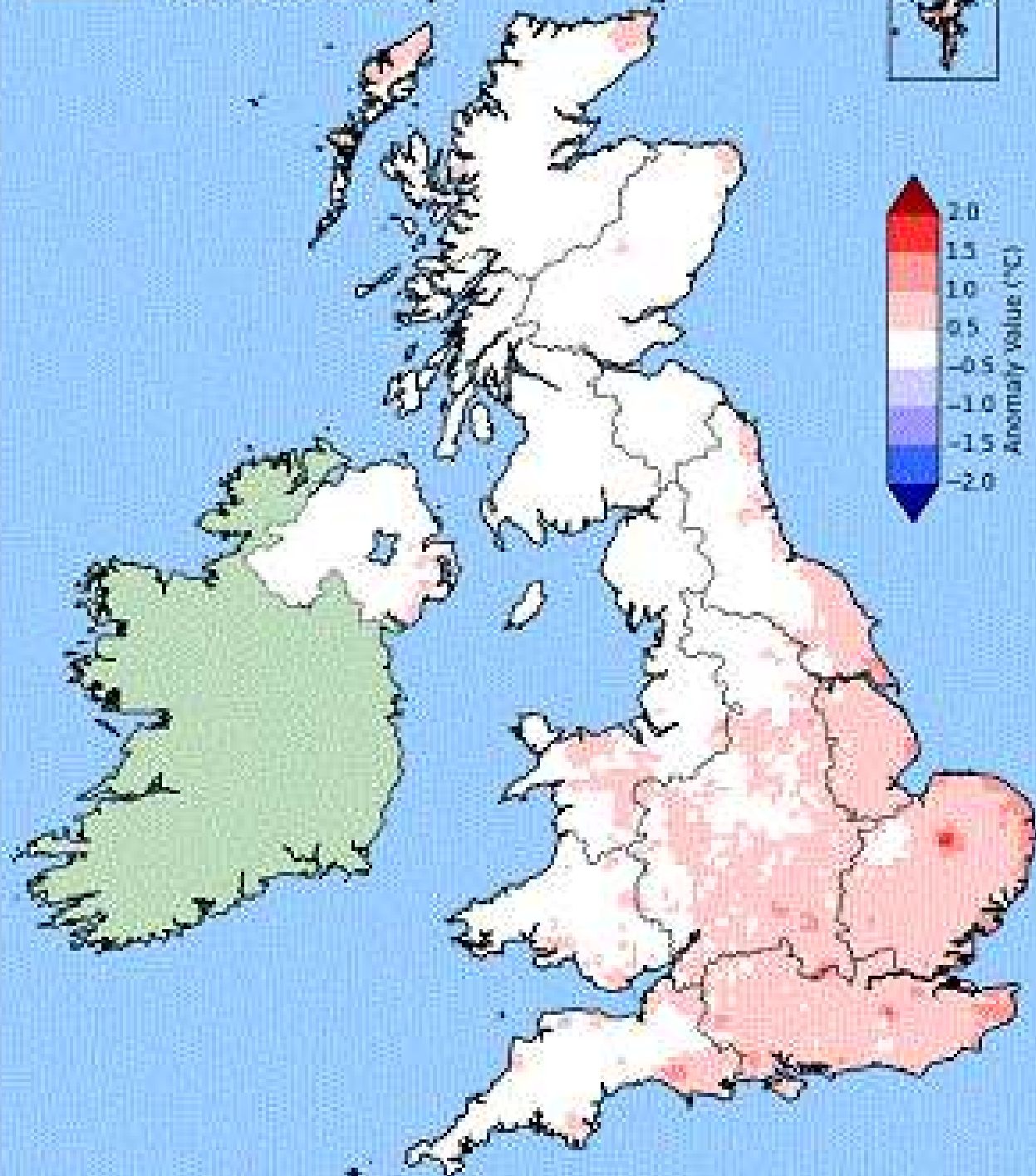


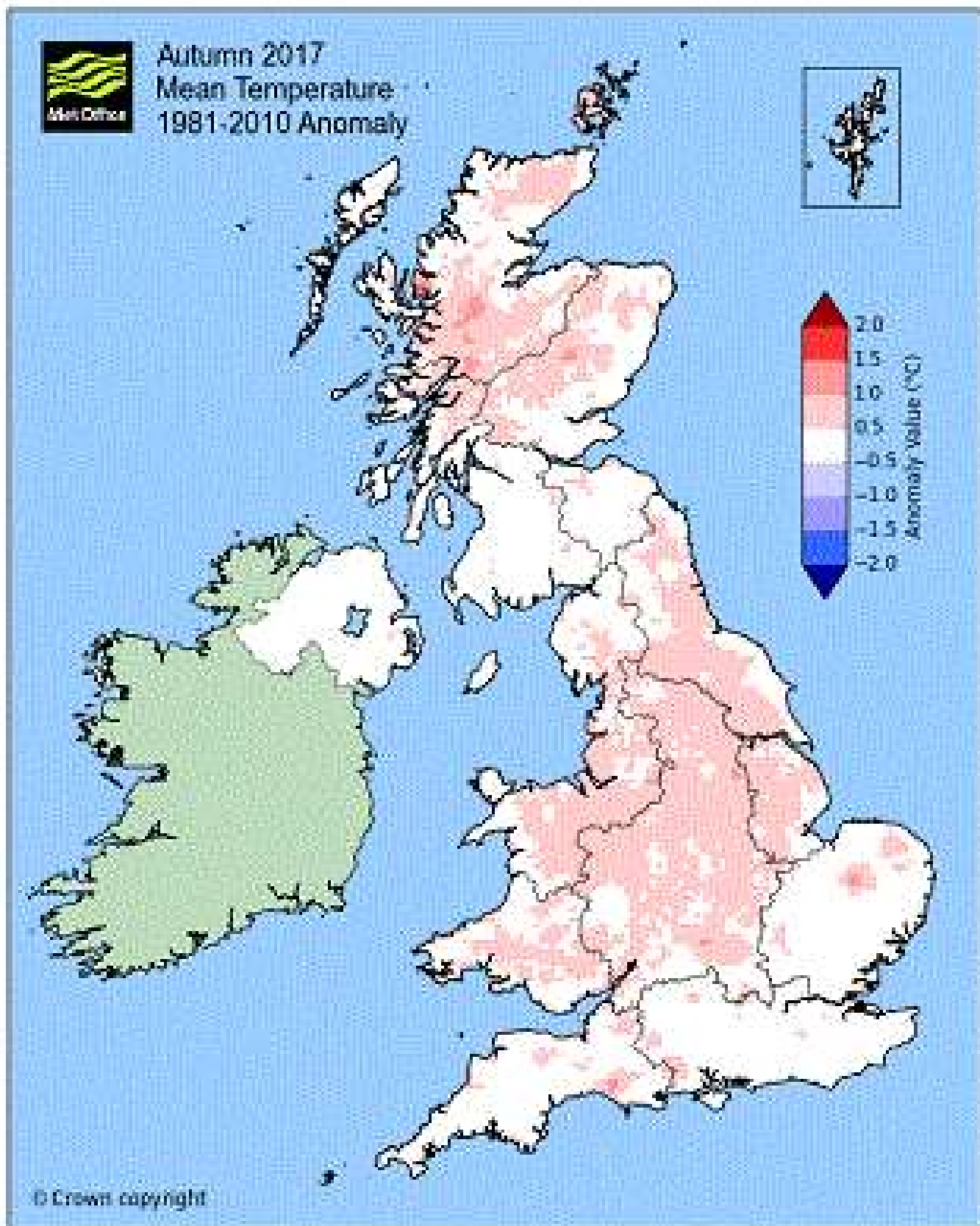
Spring 2017
Mean Temperature
1981-2010 Anomaly





Summer 2017 Mean Temperature 1981-2010 Anomaly



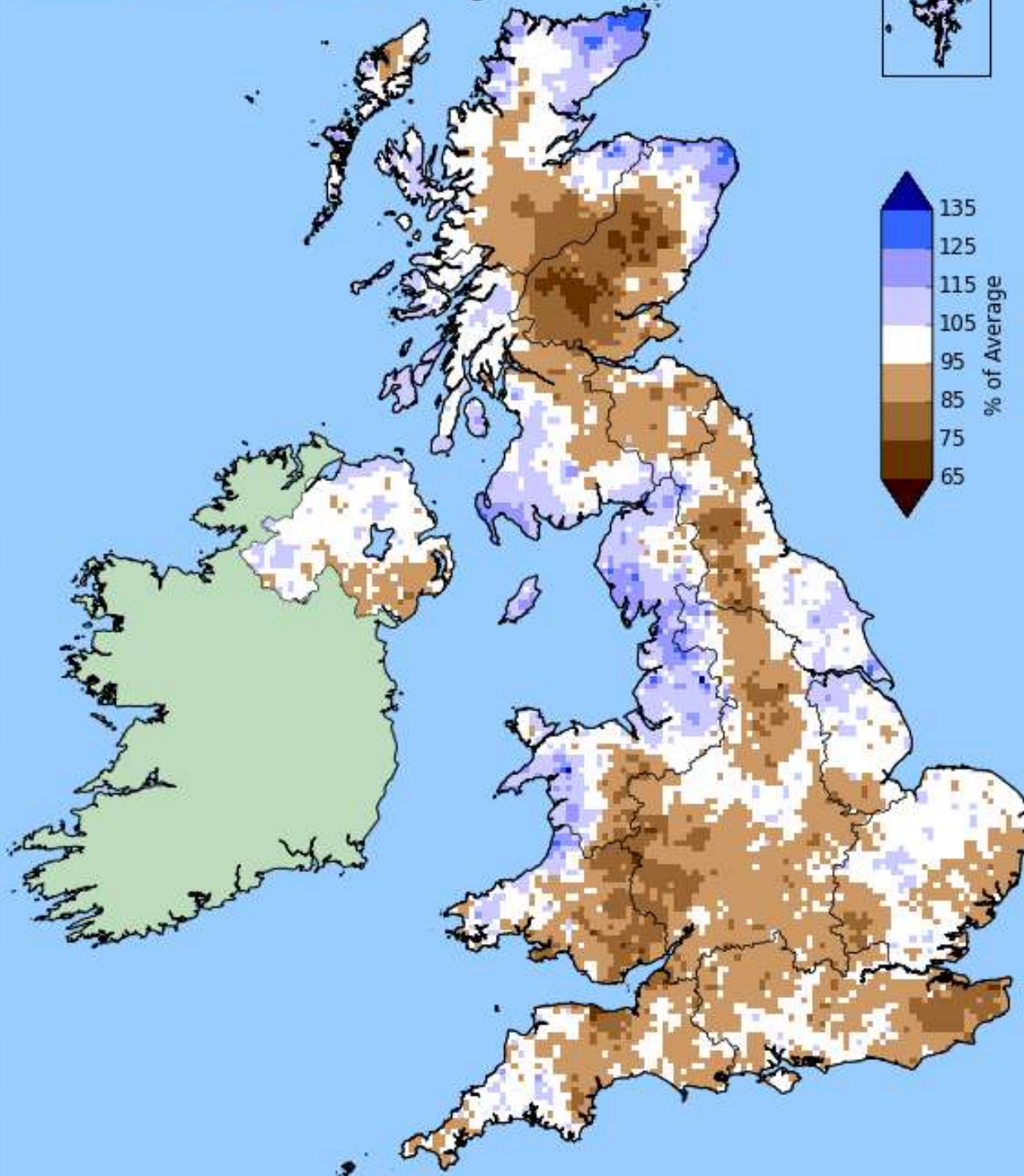
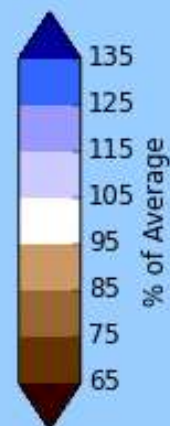


Nine of the ten warmest years for the UK have occurred since 2002, and the top ten have all occurred since 1990. The Central England Temperature series, which extends back to 1659, shows that the 21st century (since 2001) has so far been warmer than the previous three centuries.

For the UK as a whole, rainfall in 2017 was close to average, but with large regional differences. Much of Highland Scotland and lowland England were considerably dry, whilst west Wales, north-west England, and parts of south-west and north-east Scotland saw wetter conditions



Year 2017
Rainfall Amount
% of 1981-2010 Average



© Crown copyright

Mean sea level around the UK has risen at a rate of approximately 1.4 mm per year since the start of the 20th Century, equivalent to a rise of about 16 cm.

Table 1; Extremes for 2017

Extremes 09 -09 GMT	Date	Observation	Station
Highest daily max temp	21 Jun	34.5 °C	Heathrow, Greater London
Lowest daily min temp	11 Dec	-13.0°C	Dalwinnie, Inverness-shire
	12 Dec		Shawbury, Shropshire
Highest daily rain	24 Dec	212.6mm	Ennerdale, Cumbria
Greatest snow depth	11 Dec	40cm	Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog, Wrexham
Highest daily sunshine	17 Jun	16.2 hr	Whitby, North Yorkshire
	18 Jun		Hastings, East Sussex
	19 Jun		Morecambe, Lancashire
Highest gust speed	23 Feb	94 mph	Capel Curig, Conwy
Highest gust speed mountain	23 Dec	137 mph	Cairngorm Summit, Inverness-shire

This report provides a summary of the UK weather and climate through the calendar year 2017 and is the 4th annual ‘State of the UK climate’ produced by the Met Office. It provides an accessible, authoritative and up-to-date assessment of UK climate trends, variations and extremes based on the latest available climate quality observational datasets.

For the first time this [report](#) is being published as a special issue of the International Journal of Climatology, which is the Royal Meteorological Society journal of climate science.

Professor Liz Bentley, Chief Executive of the Royal Meteorological Society, said: “The State of the UK climate reports provide an important record of the weather and climate in the UK each year. The Royal Meteorological Society is delighted that these reports are now being published in the International Journal of Climatology providing quality assurance and accessibility to a wider audience.”